

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-24.(Cancelled as Non-elected)

1 25. (Previously presented) A rod lens array according to claim 36 and including at  
2 least one rod lens having a center-line-average roughness of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  - 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  on  
3 the peripheral surface.

1 26-35. Canceled

1 36. (Previously presented) A rod lens array comprising:  
2 a plurality of gradient index rod lenses each of which are spaced apart by  
3 an average spacing of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and  
4 means for fixing the gradient index rod lens in alignment in an integral rod  
5 lens array unit.

1 37. (Previously presented) The rod lens array of claim 36, wherein the average  
2 spacing is in a range of 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

1 38. (Previously presented) The rod lens array of claim 36, wherein variation in  
2 alignment pitch, horizontal variation and/or height variation is suppressed.

1 39. (Previously presented) A rod lens array according to claim 36 and in which  
2 constituent rod lenses are such that representative values for the center-line-  
3 average roughness on their peripheral surfaces are between 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  as  
4 averaged for the whole lens array.

1 40. (Previously presented) A rod lens array according to claim 36 in which center-  
2 line-average roughness of peripheral surfaces of constituent rod lenses have a  
3 standard deviation between 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  for the whole lens array.

1 41. (Previously presented) A rod lens array according to claim 36 in which  
2 diameters of constituent rod lenses have a standard deviation between 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$

1 and 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  for the whole lens array.